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Maryland's Online Public Information Network

SAILOR

Fact Sheet

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What is SAILOR?

SAILOR is a service of Maryland's public libraries that provides a broadband data communications network called the SAILOR NETWORK. It also features an extensive collection of research databases provided for the free use of Maryland public library customers and a self-serve inter-library request capability called MARINA.

What does the SAILOR NETWORK do?

The SAILOR NETWORK is a statewide data communications network that connects Maryland public libraries, schools, and government agencies to the Internet. The SAILOR NETWORK provides high performance Internet access to these agencies by purchasing at a volume level the individual agencies could not afford to subscribe to individually.

What does MARINA do?

MARINA enables Maryland public library card holders to borrow items in public library collections around the state and have the borrowed items delivered to them at their local public library branch. MARINA is like a search engine of library catalogs with a built-in order-placing capability. A link to MARINA can be found on your local Maryland public library's website and on the SAILOR website at www.sailor.lib.md.us.

What kind of databases does SAILOR have and how can I use them?

The SAILOR research databases are selected to ensure equal access to a wide range of online reference and research sources, from journals and periodicals to history and science research. SAILOR databases are available free to all Maryland public library customers and students.

SAILOR research databases can help with homework, genealogy, car repair, and much more. They can be found integrated with the collection of research databases on the local Maryland public library's website. SAILOR can also be accessed at www.sailor.lib.md.us.

Who is responsible for SAILOR?

The Maryland State Department of Education, Division of Library Development and Services, initiated SAILOR in the late 1980's and provided \$1.2 million to develop the online inter-library loan application, the data communications network, and launch the database subscription collection. SAILOR is supported with state per capita funding for Maryland's State Library Resource Center at Enoch Pratt Free Library in Baltimore. Oversight is provided by the SAILOR Advisory Committee, a subcommittee of the State Library Resource Center Oversight Commission. The SAILOR Operations Center is located at Enoch Pratt Free Library, State Library Resource Center. For more information, contact the SAILOR Service Coordinator at 410-545-6343.